

"South Farallones"

Nov 30th 1859

Dear Brother Horace,

As I have not written to you for some time and have received several letters from you in the interim. I suppose it is about time to "spread myself" for the purpose and here I am. I wrote to Father on the 30th ult. and to Edmund (Keber) on the 15th inst. but did not have a chance to send the letters to town until the 20th inst and I have heard from town but once this month and I tell you I am getting awful tired of this loneliness. It is almost as bad as the State Prison but I am in hopes that Govt will make some arrangements to have a vessel visit us regularly I am trying hard for it and have written one or two "official" letters on the subject. Things at this Island have always been in an unsettled state and the enclosed extract will partially explain to you the causes. Before I came here this Egg Co used to have things all their own way as the former Lt Keeper was a very ignorant man and besides was a stockholder in the Co and as long as he received his dividend that was all he cared for and Govt knew nothing of the actual state of affairs but since I have been here "things have taken a turn" and they have ascertained that I am not so easily bluffed as was Mr Wines. They have always claimed that the Island was their property and that they had the exclusive right to the eggs whereas I believe it to be the property of the U.S. and that the Lt Keepers have a right to the eggs and as I have at last got the matter before Govt I think it will now be settled and the Egg co. driven off the Island. They tried their best last spring to have me removed for this very thing and they may perhaps succeed finally but I shall not abate my efforts in the least for it is worth trying for and if I succeed I may perhaps reap the benefits. The egg season is the months of May & June and the profits of the Co. after all expenses are paid is every year from five to six thousand dollars quite an item and if this Island is Govt property I have a right to these eggs and I am bound to try and gain it.

The Egg Co. are of course bitter enemies to me and will use their utmost efforts to effect my removal but at present the Govt authorities are in my favor and I feel in hopes that I shall win and I think when I go to town again (1st Jany) I shall be able to ascertain positively about it. If I could have the privilege of this egg business for one season it is all I would ask and Govt might "Kiss my foot and go up along" Kate Lay was married on the 10th inst and she is now Mrs Chas R. Norton. Fast country this.

I should like very well to have a good wife myself if my circumstances were satisfactory but until that time arrives I suppose I must stuff myself up with the idea that.

"Depth of judgment most in him appears

Who wisely weds in his maturer years."

very refreshing, but however, it is a little better than the "fox and the grapes."

I suppose you are having fine times there this winter these long evenings I used to think great blessings to young people and I presume you are making the most of them.

I expect to go to the city the first of next month to hand in my "returns" and to get our rations and I intend to look around a little to see if I can make any arrangements to go into some kind of

business. for I have about made up my mind that I must make California my home for some years to come and if I can get into business here. I intend to come home and make a visit and then return for I am satisfied that Mystic is no place for me unless I have more money than I have now. Lod talks of going in business in the city and would like to have me go in with him but I have not sufficient means at present but by economy I think I can save enough in six months and then if every thing be satisfactory I think it very probable I shall go in company with him. I sent Father what money I could spare out of my last quarter's salary and intended to do the same every quarter regularly for I did think of getting into some business at home but now I hardly know what to do or say for if I have any chance here (and I can see none at home) I shall need every dollar I can raise and in fact if I had the money I should very probably go in with Lod now at once but I cannot tell exactly how matters are until I go to town and then I trust I can write you something definite in regard to my intentions for the future. I am getting well along in years and must make up my mind to something for I cannot make enough in ten years on this island to amount to much and as for living here, alone, as I am now for that length of time I would not agree to do it today for one hundred thousand dollars. This is just the way I feel here and I want if possible and I want to get out of it for this Robinson Crusoe life would kill me in a short time. I had rather live among society and be poorer than Job's turkey than live where I am and have a fortune. This is the truth your ideas of my good situation to the contrary notwithstanding.

But I must close. Write me as often as you can for letters are all that keep me alive here and it is now more than a month since I received any.

Your affectionate brother
Amos

"South Karallones."

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Dear Brother Horace,

As I have not written to you for some time, and have received several letters from you, in the interim, I suppose it is about time to "spread myself" for the purpose, and here I am. I wrote to Father on the 30th ult, and to Edmund (Kebler) on the 15th inst. but did not have a chance to send the letters to town until the 20th inst. and I have heard from town but once this month, and I tell you. I am getting awful tired of this loneliness, it is almost as bad as the State Prison, but I am in hopes that Govt. will make some arrangements to have a vessel visit us regularly. I am trying hard for it, and have written one or two "official" letters on the subject. Things at this Island have always been in an unsettled state, and the enclosed extract will partially explain to you the causes. Before I came here this Egg Co. used to have things all their own way, as the former St. Kasper was a very ignorant man, and besides, was a stockholder in the Co. and as long as he received his dividend, that was all he cared for, and Govt. knew nothing of the actual state of affairs, but since I have been here, "things have taken a turn", and they have ascertained that

I am not so easily bluffed as was Mr Wines. They have always claimed that the Island was their property, and that they had the exclusive right to the eggs, whereas I believe it to be the property of the U. S. and that the St Kipus have a right to the eggs, and as I have at last got the matter before Govt., I think it will now be settled, and the Egg Co driven off the Island. They tried their best, last spring, to have me removed, for this very thing, and they may, perhaps, succeed finally, but I shall not abate my efforts, in the least, for it is worth trying for, and if I succeed, I may perhaps reap the benefits. The egg season is the months of May & June, and the profits of the Co. after all expenses are paid, is every year, from five to six thousand dollars, quite an item, and if this Island is Govt property, I have a right to these eggs and I am bound to try and gain it.

The Egg Co are, of course, bitter enemies to me, and will use their utmost efforts to effect my removal, but, at present, the Govt authorities are in my favor, and I feel in hopes, that I shall win, and I think when I go to town again (1st Jan'y) I shall be able to ascertain positively about it. If I could have the privilege of this egg business for one season, it is all I would ask, and Govt might, "kiss my foot and so up along"

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then return. for I am satisfied that Mystic is
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than I have now. So I talk of going in business
in the city. and would like to have me go in with
him. but I have not sufficient means. at present
but. by economy. I think I can save enough in
six months. and then. if everything be satisfactory
I think it very probable. I shall go in company.
with him. I sent Father what money I could spare

out of my last quarters salary. and intended to do
the same every quarter regularly. for I did think
of getting into some business at home, but now.
I hardly know what to do, or say. for if I have any
chance here, (and I can see none at home) I shall
need every dollar I can raise. and in fact. if I
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God now. at once. but I cannot tell exactly how
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